

QUARTERLY REPORT

INTERNATIONAL EYE FOUNDATION

**INTERGRATED HIV/AIDS/STD AND FAMILY PLANNING
SERVICES PROJECT UNDER SUPPORT TO AIDS AND
FAMILY PLANNING - STAFH**

IFA NO. 690 - 95 - A - 002

**7TH QUARTER REPORT
JULY - SEPTEMBER
1997**

Prepared By:

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Nchalo**

1. SUMMARY OF QUARTERLY ACTIVITIES

This report covers the 7th quarter, from July 1, 1997 to September 30, 1997 for the HIV/AIDS/STD prevention and Family Planning promotion - STAFH Project. During the quarter the Project continued their activities with M.O.H. & P., youth in schools, private sector.

Key activities for the quarter

1. Traditional Healers Refresher Course - 218 healers have undergone a refresher course.
2. Kapichira Falls AIDS education - 83 people attended AIDS education
3. Information Education and Communication to the community - music, drama, video and songs were conducted in which 4,900 people attended in all shows.
4. Home based care and counselling - 41 clients were visited in villages and 12 clients counselled at Montfort Counselling Centre.
5. Evaluation of the use of AIDS curriculum - Primary School, Secondary School and Distance Centre were evaluated in the use of AIDS curriculum.
6. Logistic training to health personnel - 18 participants from M.O.H.& P., Montfort, SUCOMA and Private Clinics attended this CDLMIS training.
7. Knowledge, Attitude, Practice and Behaviour survey - 5 villages in Chapananga Catchment area [Kakoma and Gola] had a KAPB survey.
8. National Immunisation Day - 3 STAFH staff were involved as supervisors in this national event.
9. Community Based Distributors Agent community based review course - 20 CBD in East Bank and Chikwawa had a review course.
10. People living positively with HIV visit - 2 people from Blantyre were invited to visit a number of schools to tell children the facts of HIV/AIDS.
11. Administrative issue - Community Outreach Assistant and Secretary recruitment.

12. Meetings - BLM and PVO Task Force meetings were done in the quarter.
13. Future plans - October - December planned activities

II. TECHNICAL REPORT

1. Traditional Healers

As 410 traditional healers were initially trained in 1995 in Primary Eye Care, Sexually Transmitted Diseases including HIV/AIDS prevention and Family Planning promotion. So far 458 traditional healers have undergone a refresher course but in the quarter 218 healers have been refreshed. The areas that were covered includes Chapananga, Ngabu, Chikwawa and East Bank.

# of Healers Trained	# now refreshed	# remaining	Untrained Healers
410	458	150	198

Note: The number of healers that have gone under refresher and the remaining does not tally to those initially trained. This has been the case because some healers which attended the refreshers were not initially trained. Therefore, 198 healers were not trained initially.

During this refresher, the healers reported to have stopped direct application of local herbs into the eyes in which it has a side effect and one of them could be blindness.

They also cited that some of the culture beliefs are facilitating the spread of HIV/AIDS, like wife inheritance. Which they say are going to help people to find an alternative for this, i.e. instead of wife inheritance to use local herbs as a way of cleaning the deceased family.

For the rapid growth of the population, it was also their concern since some of the healers are Village Headmen and have problems of settling issues of land distribution which to them its an indication of land problem due to population growth. They were encouraged to educate their clients on the importance of planning their families.

Topics which were covered during these refreshers were the basic information in Family Planning Promotion and STD/HIV/AIDS prevention.

The Healers also requested condoms which International Eye Foundation is helping them to get from Ministry of Health and Population.

2. Kapichira Fall AIDS Education

The Project tried to conduct AIDS education to staff employed at Kapichira Falls. A number of 455 were to be reached, unfortunately only 83 people attended the AIDS talk. The problem was that the relationship between the workers and employers was not good. The workers claimed that working overtime are not given their over-time money. And though were promised that overtime will be paid to those attending the education. Hence they boycotted the talk since many of them were tired with night shifts and proposed if the talk be done at their camp site. But since it was an agreement between IEF and management of Kapichira that talks should be done after working hours at the working site and overtime will be paid. The number which attended this talk were all technical staff but all support staff are the one who boycotted.

Another effort is being scheduled to go and approach the management in what strategy should be followed to reach those people. However, giving talk at their camp site would be preferable since they would have rested a bit after their tiresome job. And during that time its when we can have a good audience.

3. Information, Education and Communication Activities to the Community

Poems, drama and songs are used as a means of reaching the community as an IEC strategy. The messages that are carried out are the promotion of Family Planning acceptance and ways how people can prevent contracting STD including HIV/AIDS.

- A total of 7,730 people attended in all the shows for this quarter. There were a total of 16 shows.

MONTH	# of shows	Attendance
July, 1997	4	2,900
August, 1997	7	2,900
September, 1997	5	1,930

- These activities are done using Anti-AIDS Clubs and local drama groups.

Anti - AIDS Toto Clubs had also exchange visits in which they share experiences.

The Project provides transport to pick and drop that particular club and also provide them with lunch allowance. Three clubs exchanged visit in the month of July.

4. Home Based Care and Counselling

IEF trained 25 HBC/Counselling Volunteers in 1995 and the objectives for these volunteers are to care for the sick at their homes and to clear misconceptions that people have of HIV / AIDS, like sharing clothes you contract the virus. Currently 15 are active. During the quarter 41 clients were visited in their villages and 12 clients counselled at Montfort Hospital. Activities that are done are:- to help and counsel clients to go to hospital for medical attention, cooking, washing clothes, bathing the sick.

The counselling is done at the newly built Counselling Centre which was sponsored by IEF. This Centre has a supervisor who supervises the Home Based Care/ Counsellor Volunteers. Currently this Supervisor's monthly salary is paid by IEF but once the STAFH Project comes to an end Montfort Hospital will take care of her salary. The Supervisor was once a Home Based Care Volunteer and her name is Mrs. Clara Mazuma.

Some of the Volunteers have found an independent group which is called Family Health Education and Counselling Centre [FHECC] but gets support from IEF technically and Action Aid in capacity building.

5. Evaluation in the Use of AIDS Curriculum

It was noted during this evaluation that some teachers are not using the curriculum even though it appears on their schemes of work as well as lesson plans. It was also noted that there were a few teachers who were briefed in the use of the curriculum. A meeting was conducted between IEF and Primary School Advisors to see if there were any problems and how best they can achieve so that the topics are taught in each and every school. A conclusion was reached that briefing sessions on the use of the curriculum to be done in schools.

6. Contraceptive Distribution and Logistic Management Information System Training

A one week training was held at Chikwawa Council Chamber. The participants

were drawn from MOH, Montfort and SUCOMA. This follows the Contraceptives Distribution and Logistics Management Information System (CDLMIS) training which was held at Domasi in Zomba in December, 1996 as some of the providers who are involved in compiling family planning reports in some of the health facilities did not attend the training. Therefore, these providers were invited to know standard procedures and guidelines for the management of contraceptives supplies and ensure that contraceptives will be available at all times to family planning clinics.

The participants who attended the training are: see appendix 1

7. **KAPB Survey**

In preparation for a training of 20 new CBD at Gola and Kakoma in Chapananga Catchment area, a KAPB survey was conducted in 5 selected villages in which 212 people were interviewed. The purpose of the survey was to determine what knowledge sexually active people in this village have regarding Family Planning methods, STD and HIV /AIDS. Equally was to find out what their actual sexually practices are in light of their attitudes and knowledge of HIV/AIDS/STD and Family Planning. Married men, women, Female Headed Households and unmarried girls were interviewed.

This is the first survey in the areas where CBD have been selected and trained. No base line survey was conducted in the two areas [Ngabu and Chikwawa] where the previous 43 CBDs were trained.

The 1st section of the questionnaire focused in characteristics of the population. Next section was in Family Planning attitudes and practices, and HIV/AIDS then STD, personal sexual behaviour and finally in condom use. **See appendix 3**

8. **National Immunisation Day**

3 STAFH staff were involved in this National events which was done in August and September. They supervised the sites where immunisations were conducted.

When Polio was given, IEF also had to supplement Vitamin A and this was done in the second round of the campaign. There were a few problems which were noted during the campaign and these were:

1. Some sites had run short of vaccines especially Polio which kept people waiting for so long.

2. Due to culture beliefs some people did not bring their children to be immunised.

3. Some sites were far apart which made the supervisors to have tough time in supervision.

9. CBD Community Based Review Course

20 CBD have undergone a community based review course which has been conducted in Chikwawa and East Bank. During this review course much was focused on Record Keeping, Counselling and sorting logistical issues. This sort of review course is on a pilot bases to see how it can work, though it takes time to complete the reviews with all CBDs. One other reason was to see their problems so that during the refresher training much focuses on those problems.

Also it has an advantage that it does not involve movement of the CBDs.

10. People Living Positively with HIV/AIDS

2 People living positively with HIV/AIDS from Blantyre were invited and visited some schools in Chikwawa. They were giving talk to pupils about the facts of HIV/AIDS. They told them that they have the virus and are living as other people and they should not take it for granted that all healthy looking people are free from the virus. 9 schools from Nchalo, Chikwawa and East Bank were visited. However, children could not believe what these people were telling them that they have the virus. Plans are under way to take these people into the community.

11. Administrative issue

Community Outreach Assistant - Miss. Fatuma Mashonga has been recruited to replace the one who resigned and also a new Secretary - Mrs. Chrissie Dayo has been recruited to replace the previous one.

The STAFH Project Manager - Ms. Robyn Delehanty's contract ended in August and she has left the country. Mr. Tommy Mthepheya is the Acting Project Manager.

12. Meetings

IEF and Banja La Mtsogolo had a meeting at IEF office - Nchalo pertaining to the issue of BLM CBDs that are in Chikwawa. Much was focused on the impact those paid CBDs would bring to the unpaid CBDs. After a long discussion it was agreed that the issue be tabled at a higher level to come with a good resolution.

Another meeting of Workers Task Force was held at Limbe Leaf Conference room in Blantyre which was organised by JSI - STAFH Project. Among the issues that were discussed during the meeting were to recommend the newly developed Peer - education curriculum, Peer - educators certificate, Development of Workers Task Force Newsletter, involvement of Journalist in the publicity of AIDS awareness through newspapers.

Some members complained of CBD Programme which has been started by BLM in already existing areas with MOH&P CBD in which BLM is giving an allowance of MK300 while the other CBD are working as volunteers which will bring a negative impact to those unpaid CBD.

14. Future Plans

1. Traditional Healers Refresher Course - November, 1997

2. Exchange visits of CBD and Anti - AIDS Clubs - November, 1997
3. Drama shows in villages as IEC - November and December, 1997
4. General Supervision for CBD and Anti - AIDS Clubs - Nov. and Dec. 1997
5. CBD Refresher Courses - Nov. 1997
6. Kapichira Falls AIDS education - Nov. and Dec. 1997
7. Primary Teachers Training in the use of AIDS curriculum - Nov. 1997
8. Core FP Service Providers Refresher Course - Dec. 1997
9. CBD initial training - Oct. 1997

Appendix 1.

NAME	STATION
Mrs. L. Ngogo	SUCOMA
Mrs. V. Cheonga	SUCOMA
Mrs. L. Nkhoma	SUCOMA
Miss. M. Madani	SUCOMA
Mrs. L. Misomali	SUCOMA
Mrs. E. Mwafulirwa	SUCOMA
Mrs. F. Mwakenja	SUCOMA
Mrs. Chisale	Montfort
Miss. Ng'ong'ola	Montfort
Miss. Nyondo	Chipwaila H/C
Mrs. R. Magwede	Ngabu R/H
Miss. M. Mpahuwa	Ngabu R/H
Mrs. Moyo	Chikwawa D/H
Mrs. Kawinga	Chikwawa D/H
Mrs. Nyaude	Chikwawa D/H
Mr. Chimisi	Kakoma H/C
Mr. Mwalabu	Gaga H/C

Mrs. Kaliati	Chapananga H/C

Glossary.

1. STD - Sexually Transmitted Diseases
2. HIV - Human Immunodeficiency Virus
3. AIDS - Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
4. STAFH - Support To AIDS And Family Health
5. IEF - International Eye Foundation
6. MOH & P - Ministry Of Health and Population
7. IEC - Information Education and Communication

8. CDLMIS - Contraceptive Distribution and Logistic Management Information System
9. KAPB - Knowledge, Attitude, Practice and Behaviour
10. CBD - Community Based Distributor
11. BLM - Banja La Mtsogolo
12. PVO - Private Organasation
13. HBC - Home Based Care
14. JSI - John Snow International
15. FP - Family Planning
16. HC - Health Centre
17. DH - District Hospital
18. HSA _ Health Surveillance Assistant